PLSC 170: Introduction to International Politics
Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

Instructor Information
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Office Hours: T TH 1:30-3:00 & by appt
Class Locations: HRCB 122
Class Times: T Th 4:00-5:15 am

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the understanding the interactions of countries, international organizations, multinational corporations, transnational groups of citizens, non-governmental organizations. We will discuss cooperation, conflict, organization, commitment, stability and change in the international system. We will discuss historical cases and current events, but this course is not about history or current events. It is about the applying the understanding of actors, incentives and strategic interactions that we will discuss in this course to understand historical and current issues that take place in our world. Some interesting questions that International Relations seeks to answer include: Why does war occur? How can it be prevented? How do domestic politics impact the likelihood of war? How can countries communicate with each other? Should they believe each other when they do? How does economic interdependence affect the broader relationships between countries? Is international law enforceable? How does globalization affect countries?

In this course, assignments and activities will include writing exercises, reading quizzes, simulations, games, group work, class discussions, video clips, and lectures. I value and appreciate your participation. I will solicit your feedback on class activities periodically throughout the semester.

The activities and assignments in this course address the learning outcomes of the political science major by encouraging you to 1) demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts of International Relations; 2) demonstrate an understanding of key actors and processes in international politics; 3) demonstrate an understanding of causes of war and causes of international cooperation; 4) demonstrate an understanding of different theories of the study of international politics, including Realism and Idealism; 4) demonstrate understanding of how different theories lead to different interpretations of key events and processes in international politics; and 5) be better prepared to participate as a national and global citizen. A full list of the department learning outcomes can be accessed at https://learningoutcomes.byu.edu.

Course Requirements

Readings
Two books are required for purchase. Other readings will be placed on the course site in Learning Suite. These readings are just as essential for your coursework as the two main tests. I
reserve the right to change the readings by adding, dropping or reorganizing them. I will give you as much advance notice as possible if I find it necessary to do so.

(1) Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics* (11th ed.; NY: Longman, 2013). Note: previous editions will have some, but not all of the readings for this course.


**Assignments**

The assignments for this course are as follows:

(1) Ten short (1-2 page) reading response papers. You will need to demonstrate an understanding of how the course material applies as you respond to a prompt, article or video clip that I supply. I will make a prompt, article, or video clip available each week by midnight on Thursday. The response paper will be due by the beginning of class on Tuesday. You may submit it electronically at any time before then or you may bring a hard copy to class on Tuesday (be on time). Since there are 15 weeks in the semester, this means that you may choose which of the response papers you will complete. This will allow you to choose the topics you are most interested in and to manage your schedule. I would strongly encourage you to complete at least five of your required responses prior to the middle of the semester. The end of the semester tends to get very busy. Each worth 2% of the course grade; (total 20%)

(2) Geography Quizzes. A total of 5 geography quizzes will be given in class. Each one will cover a specified area of the world. You will be given a blank map and required to fill in the name of each country. (Links to study from will be provided on Learning Suite.) Dates for the quizzes are listed below on the schedule (September 19, October 10 & 31, November 21, December 12). Each quiz will be worth 2 points.

(3) Two Midterm Exams. The exams will consist of a multiple choice questions, identification questions, and short essays. 20% each for a total of 40%

(4) Final Exam. The exam will consist of multiple choice, identification and essay questions. 20%

(5) Participation. Do the reading, play the games, participate in simulations, make comments, ask questions, participate in debates. If your individual attendance or participation becomes problematic, I will ask you to meet with me to work out a plan for greater participation. If participation becomes problematic as a group, I will begin giving unannounced reading quizzes at the beginning of class. 10%

**Course Policies**

**Make up exams and assignments**

Make up exams will only be given in the case of a documented emergency or as otherwise required by university policy. Response papers will not be accepted late. Unless an arrangement has been made with the professor prior to the due date, problem sets will be reduced a full letter grade for each day it is late. The research paper will be reduced 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late.
Assignment of Grades
Final letter grades will be assigned using the following scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (78-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+ (67-69), D (64-66), D- (60-63), and F (59 and below).

If you have reason to believe that a grading error has been made, you must make a detailed argument in writing, outlining why you believe your grade to be in error. You must submit your written argument within 10 days of receiving your grade--after that, I will assume you have accepted the grade assigned.

Civility
Please mind your manners in class. This means that you should arrive promptly, avoid surfing the internet or reading newspapers during class, avoid packing up bags prior to the end of class, and refrain from talking on cell phones during class. It also means that you will be civil in all discussions. Each class member should feel free to express an opinion. Lively debate is intellectually stimulating and healthy. Demeaning another class member or making derogatory generalizations about any group of people are unacceptable behaviors.

Academic Integrity
While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic Honesty are found at http://saas.byu.edu/catalog/2010-2011ucat/GeneralInfo/HonorCode.php.

Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing. The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.
Discrimination

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Opportunities Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Access

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Schedule

Introduction

September 3, 5: Why and how are international relations different from other types of politics?

- Goldstein & Pevehouse, Ch 1

September 10: Which actors matter and what matters to them? Paradigms in International Relations: Realism

- Goldstein & Pevehouse, Ch 2
- Kenneth Waltz, “The Origins of War in NeoRealist Theory” Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 18, 4, pp. 615-628
- Condoleezza Rice, “Rethinking the National Interest: American Realism for a New World” Foreign Affairs 87(4), Jul/Aug 2008, pp 2-14, 16-26
September 12, 17: Paradigms in International Relations. Liberalism and Social Theories

- Jon Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories” *Foreign Policy* Nov/Dec 2004 pp. 52-62
- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch 3

**Interactions of Conflict**

September 19: The Role of Coercive Violence

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 4 (only pp 107-144 and 157-159)
- Thomas C. Schelling “The Diplomacy of Violence” in Art and Jervis pp. 172-186
- Elise Labott, “North Korea’s Elaborate Game of Chicken with the US” CNN April 3, 2013
- Stephan Haggard, “Kim Jung Un is not Crazy” CNN April 2, 2013
- First Geography Quiz: North and South America

September 24, 26, October 1, 3: War and Rationality

- James D. Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” in Art and Jervis, pp. 57-64.
- Ron Hassner, “To Halve and to Hold: Conflicts over Sacred Space and the Problem of Indivisibility” *Security Studies* 12 (4): 1-33
- David Lake, "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory" *International Security* 35(3). 1-44

October 8: First Midterm Exam

October 10, 15: How to prevent war, maybe? International and Domestic Institutions


October 17: Civil War

October 22: Terrorism
• Bruce Hoffman, “What is Terrorism?” in Art and Jervis, pp. 186-196
• Goldstein and Pevehouse pp. 145-148

October 24: Weapons of Mass Destruction and their effects on international relations
• Elise Labott, “North Korea’s Elaborate Game of Chicken with the US” CNN April 3, 2013
• Stephan Haggard, “Kim Jung Un is not Crazy” CNN April 2, 2013
• Khammar Mrabit, “Nuclear Security and the Way Forward” IAEA Bulletin 54-2, June 2013
• David Fischer “History of the IAEA” Pp 411-425

*Interactions of Cooperation*

*International Institutions*

October 29, 31: Ideas, Norms, Laws

• Goldstein and Pevehouse pp. 240-253
• Stanley Hoffman, “The Uses and Limits of International Law” in Art and Jervis pp. 147-151
• Theodore Meron, “Answering for War Crimes: Lessons from the Balkans” *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 1997 pp. 2-8
• Rhoda E. Howard and Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights in World Politics” in Art and Jervis. pp 437-449
November 5: Second Midterm Exam

November 7: International Governmental Organizations: IGOs Security Organizations. How effective are they? Under what conditions are they effective?

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 6 pp. 207-226.

November 12: IGOs: Economic Organizations.

- Goldstein and Pevehouse pp. 226-238
- “European Union: Back to the Drawing Board” The Economist September 10, 1994
- “The unwelcome guests: Turkey and the European Union” The Economist. December 11, 2004
- WTO, “The WTO in Brief”
- Global Exchange, “Top Ten Reasons to Oppose the World Trade Organization”
- WTO, “Top 10 Reasons to Oppose the World Trade Organization? Criticism, yes…misinformation, no!” (The WTO’s rebuttal to Global Exchange and similar groups, click the links and read the responses for all ten items)

November 14, 19, 21: International Political Economy: Trade, Currency & Foreign Investment

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 5
- Dani Rodrik, “Trading in Illusions” in Art and Jervis, pp. 344-352
John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid,” in Art and Jervis pp 363-369
“Multinationals, it turns out, are evil after all.” (2011, Sep 01). *The Economist*
“The price isn't right.” (2012, Sep 21). *The Economist*

November 26: No Class. Friday Schedule per University Calendar

November 28: No Class. Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3, 5: Poverty and Development: Why does the international community care about poverty and development? How do development programs affect relations between North and South?

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 7
- Clive Crook, “Rethinking the Case for Helping Poor Countries,” *The Atlantic* 2005
- Poverty, geography and the double dilemma. (2013, Jun 03). *The Economist*
- Starting at zero. (2011, Nov 14). *The Economist*

December 10, 12: International Environmental Cooperation: How and why do states (fail to) cooperate on a global public good—the environment?

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 8
- Alan Dupont, “The Strategic Implications of Climate Change” in Art and Jervis, pp. 560-569
- Is Kyoto dead?; climate change. (2003, Dec 06). *The Economist*
- The Americas: Kyoto and out; Canada and climate change. (2011, Dec 17). *The Economist*